

Please amend Claims 38-41 and 42-47 as follows, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Please add new Claims 48-54.

~~38.~~ (Twice Amended) A biomass comprising microflora selected from the order Thraustochytriales, wherein said microflora is produced by a process comprising growing said microflora at a temperature from about 5°C to about 48°C in a culture medium containing: less than about 3 grams of chloride per liter of said culture medium; sources of carbon, nitrogen, and nutrients; and a non-chloride sodium salt.

~~2~~³⁹ (Once Amended) The biomass of Claim ~~38~~¹, wherein said microflora is selected from the group consisting of *Thraustochytrium*, *Schizochytrium*, and mixtures thereof.

~~3~~⁴⁰ (Once Amended) The biomass of Claim ~~39~~², wherein said *Thraustochytrium*, *Schizochytrium*, and mixtures thereof, have all of the identifying characteristics of an organism selected from the group consisting of ATCC Nos. 20888, 20889, 20890, 20891, and 20892, and mutants thereof, wherein said mutants have an omega-3 highly unsaturated fatty acid content of at least about 0.5% dry weight.

~~4~~⁴¹ (Once Amended) The biomass of Claim ~~38~~¹, wherein the primary source of said non-chloride sodium salt is sodium sulfate.

~~5~~⁴² (Once Amended) The biomass of Claim ~~41~~⁴, wherein a concentration of said sodium sulfate in said culture medium is between about 6 g/l and about 309 g/l.

~~6~~⁴³ (Once Amended) The biomass of Claim ~~38~~¹, wherein said microflora have a sterol content of at least about 0.1% ash-free dry weight.

~~7~~⁴⁴ (Once Amended) The biomass of Claim ~~38~~¹, wherein said microflora have a cholesterol content of at least about 15% of the total sterol content.

~~8~~⁴⁵ (Once Amended) The biomass of Claim ~~38~~¹, wherein said microflora have a cell aggregate size less than about 100 microns.

~~9~~⁴⁶ (Once Amended) The biomass of Claim ~~38~~¹, wherein said microflora have a cell aggregate size less than about 50 microns.

~~10~~⁴⁷ (Added) The biomass of Claim ~~38~~¹, wherein the concentration of sodium, expressed as grams of sodium per liter of said culture medium, is at least 1 g/l.

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49. (Added) The biomass of Claim 38, wherein a concentration of sodium in said culture medium is between about 2 g/l and about 25 g/l.

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50. (Added) The biomass of Claim 38, wherein said non-chloride sodium salt is selected from the group consisting of: soda ash, sodium oxide, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulfate and mixtures thereof.

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51. (Added) The biomass of Claim 38, wherein said culture medium has a chloride concentration of less than 500 milligrams of chloride per liter of culture medium.

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52. (Added) The biomass of Claim 38, wherein said culture medium has a chloride concentration of less than 250 milligrams of chloride per liter of culture medium.

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53. (Added) The biomass of Claim 38, wherein less than 50% of the sodium in the fermentation medium is supplied as sodium chloride.

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54. (Added) The biomass of Claim 38, wherein less than 25% of the sodium in the fermentation medium is supplied as sodium chloride.
